TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 812 - HB 1278

March 17, 2009

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004229): Authorizes the Director of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Commerce and Insurance to deny any application for registration if not accompanied by the application fee. Establishes additional limits for compensation rates for services should the creditor and the individual reach an agreement that settles the debt for less than the principal amount. Prohibits a provider from misleading the client to believe that payments to creditors settle the debt without certification by the creditor. Prohibits the provider from charging the client for services or goods not directly related to debt-management services unless expressly authorized by the administrator. Establishes further technical guidelines and specifics for the enforcement of the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Revenue - \$62,500/One-Time \$75,000/Recurring Increase State Expenditures - \$18,600/One-Time \$241,800/Recurring

Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- An initial registration fee and annual renewal fee of \$250 per registrant. A total of 250 registrants with 50 new registrants per year.
- The Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Commerce and Insurance will require additional staff. The addition personnel will

- consist of one staff attorney, one consumer protection specialist, and two licensing technicians.
- The one-time increase in state revenue is estimated to be \$62,500 (\$250 registration fee x 250 applicants).
- The recurring increase in state revenue is estimated to be \$75,000 [\$62,500 (\$250 renewal fee x initial 250 applicants)+ \$12,500 (\$250 registration fee x 50 new applicants in the second year)] and an increase of \$12,500 each subsequent year based on 50 new applicants each year.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$18,600 (\$5,600 computer costs + \$8,000 office landscaping + \$5,000 Office of Information Resources).
- The recurring increase in state expenditures are estimated to be \$241,776.48 (\$138,072 salaries + \$46,604.48 benefits + \$44,800 administrative cost allocation + \$4,300 network costs + \$4,000 computer replacement fund with Finance and Administration + \$4,000 supplies and communication).
- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes, and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director

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